(c) the steps taken by Government to avoid the financial constraints likely to occur in the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisaged inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilization of water resources. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was constituted in 1982 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 to carry out the water balance studies and prepare feasibility report of the schemes of National Perspective Plan (NPP). NWDA has identified 30 links under NPP for preparation of feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 8 link projects. The Union Government has set-up a Task Force on December 13, 2002 with a view to bring about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers. The Task Force, *inter alia*, has been entrusted with the task of submitting an Action Plan giving alternative options for funding and suggested methods of cost recovery.

Pending Irrigation Projects

1529. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects pending in the country and the amount required for their completion indicating the details thereof;

(b) what is the proposed cost of the national river linking project;

(c) what is the justification behind taking up the national river linking project; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to fund the river-linking project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The State-wise number of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects in the country alongwith the amount required for their completion is provided in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) The National Perspective Plan for water resources development envisages transfer of water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilization of water resources. The tentative cost of the project at 2002 price level is Rs. 5,60,000 crores. The Central Government has constituted a Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha in December, 2002. The Task Force is to suggest various modalities for project funding.

Statement

Major and Medium irrigation projects on going in Tenth Plan with balance amount for completion

Sl. No.	State	Major Project		Medium Project	
		Number	Balance amount Rs. crore	Number	Balance amount Rs. crore
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	5249.25	13	301.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	4	332.25	5	70.89
4.	Bihar	12	2184.71	9	209.93
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	657.60	6	124.68
6.	Goa	2	225.38	1	39.92
7.	Gujarat	3	7514.20	18	290.07
8.	Haryana	4	132.27	1	117.29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	137.15	2	56.53
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	7	119.69
11.	Jharkhand	6	3144.32	21	537.73
12.	Karnataka	17	9672.54	18	281.54
13.	Kerala	5	1372.85	5	719.45

SL. No.	State	Major Project		Medium Project	
		Number	Balance amount Rs. crore	Number	Balance amount Rs. crore
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	10941.35	6	176.23
15.	Maharashtra	45	9741.52	86	1430.84
16.	Manipur	2	298.38	1	43.75
17.	Meghalaya	-	-	1	54.23
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-
19.	Nagaland	-	-	1	134.73
20.	Orissa	13	2640.56	10	445.09
21.	Punjab	2	1581.33	1	68.57
22.	Rajasthan	4	1861.12	4	21.58
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	198.10	2	109.36
25.	Tripura	-	-	3	32.26
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9	4424.37	-	-
27.	Uttaranchal	3	1622.32	-	-
28.	West Bengal	2	860.03	9	233.36
	TOTAL:	170	64791.60	230	5409.03

Total amount Rs. 70,200.63 crore say Rs. 70,200 crore

Criticism of river linking project

1530. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread criticism prevalent in the country that the proposed river linking project is designed to benefit a few States at the cost of the others;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have elicited/proposed to elicit the viewpoints of the different State Governments in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?